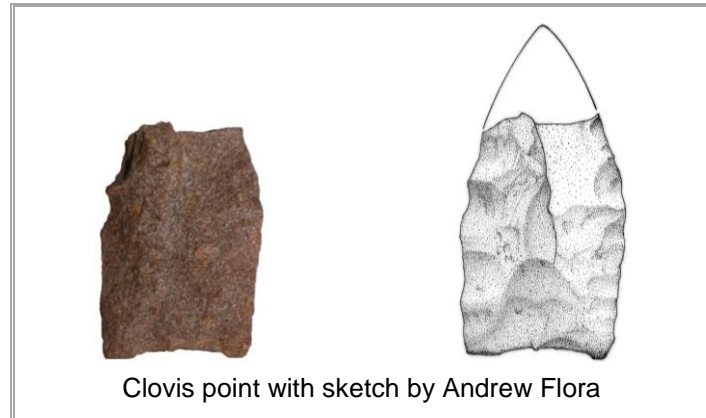


AMERICAN INDIANS IN ALEXANDRIA



# FROM THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTIONS

## AMERICAN INDIANS IN ALEXANDRIA



Clovis point with sketch by Andrew Flora

### **Artifact #1 Clovis Spear Point**

Quartzite

Paleoindian Period (11,000 B.C.–  
7,500 B.C.)

Excavated: Freedmen's Cemetery

This quartzite Clovis point is the oldest artifact found in Alexandria at up to 13,000 years old. It most likely was broken during manufacture as its maker attempted to form the tip. Clovis points, named for a New Mexican site, are identified by their concave base, bifacial blade, and fluted channel, which allowed the points to be attached to a wood-handled spear. During the Paleoindian Period, Indian hunter-gatherers moved frequently. This point is the first indication of their presence in Alexandria. Thousands of stone artifacts from Alexandria's pre-Colonial Indian occupants have been excavated at Freedmen's Cemetery, where this point was discovered. During the Civil War, graves at the cemetery were dug through the prehistoric tool-making site.

### **Artifact #2 Kirk Spear Point**

Quartzite

Early Archaic Period (8,000–6,500  
B.C.)

Excavated: Jones Point

This Kirk point is the second oldest artifact found in Alexandria. It is easily identified by its serrated edges. It dates to as early as 9,000 years ago, when the transient hunter-gatherer lifestyle continued while a warming climate changed floral and faunal species. As glaciers retreated and sea levels rose, widespread deciduous forests and smaller, more diverse game proliferated. This point was discovered on the banks of Great Hunting Creek.

### **Artifact #3 Triangular Point**

Quartz

Late Woodland Period (900–1,600  
A.D.)

Excavated: Jones Point

This small, triangular point emerged among the vestiges of Alexandria's first house—an oval-shaped structure defined by about 25 posts and several refuse pit features. Woodland Indians built the "house" by draping mats over bent saplings to form a 12-foot oval—small compared to others of the same period, when life became more sedentary. This size likely indicates a small group lived here to exploit the plant and animal resources of Great Hunting Creek.

*Archaeologists recovered all three points during excavations for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Improvement Project and Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial, funded by FHWA, VDOT, and the City of Alexandria.*